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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 29 September 2017

36/26. Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 33/26 of 30 September 2016,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Welcoming the new humanitarian policies of the Government of the Sudan, which call for rapid and unhindered humanitarian access, while encouraging the Government to protect and provide humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and encouraging the Government also to intensify its endeavours to continue its commitment to address humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session,[1] and of the comments of the Government of the Sudan thereon;[2]

[1] A/HRC/36/63.
[2] A/HRC/36/63/Add.1.

3. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Government of the Sudan with the Independent Expert to enable him to fulfil his mandate, and the Government's stated commitment to continue that cooperation;

4. *Requests* the Independent Expert to work with all relevant partners to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to relevant entities of the Government of the Sudan, national agencies and other stakeholders;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the outcomes to date of the ongoing national dialogue in the Sudan with a view to achieving sustainable peace, encourages the inclusive participation of all Sudanese stakeholders, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure an environment conducive to an inclusive, transparent and credible dialogue;

6. *Encourages* the Government of the Sudan to extend the unilateral declaration of cessation of hostilities, and calls upon remaining armed groups to declare an unconditional cessation of hostilities and to negotiate in good faith to achieve a permanent ceasefire;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Sudan of hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries and countries in the region and the opening of four humanitarian corridors to provide life-saving interventions to those affected by conflict and famine;

8. *Notes* the continued efforts of the Government of the Sudan to implement the universal periodic review recommendations it has accepted, and encourages the Government to continue its cooperation with the review process;

9. *Also notes* several positive developments, such as the recent separation of the attorney general's office from the Ministry of Justice, the appointment on 16 May 2017 of a chairperson to the Sudan National Commission for Human Rights, the presidential pardon of 259 armed rebel movement members in Darfur, and also of two pastors who had been sentenced to 12 years of imprisonment, and acknowledges the general amnesty announced on 29 August 2017 of representatives of civil society and human rights activists, and on 4 September the release on bail of representatives of civil society;

10. *Acknowledges* the observations made by the Independent Expert in his report, urges the Government of the Sudan to ensure respect for the human rights of all individuals, and expresses concern about the incidents of harassment, arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention, including of students, human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations, the restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the ongoing censorship of media, while urging the Government to respect its constitutional and international obligations and commitments and to address the demolition of places of worship and reports of harassment of religious leaders;

11. *Stresses* that conducting investigations into alleged human rights abuses and violations by all parties and holding perpetrators to account should be a foremost priority of the Government of the Sudan, while noting the view that bringing all of the Government's agencies and offices into line with the State's international human rights obligations and commitments can improve the human rights environment in the Sudan;

12. *Expresses serious concern* about alleged violations or abuses of human rights in conflict zones, including those involving sexual and gender-based violence, and urges parties to protect civilians and to pursue peace;

13. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to support the efforts of the Government of the Sudan in accordance with the present resolution with a view to further

improving the situation of human rights in the country by responding to the Government's requests for technical assistance and capacity-building;

14. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the recommendations of the Independent Expert, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building in response to the request from the Government of the Sudan for support on ways to improve the situation of human rights in the country and with a view to providing support for the country to fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments;

15. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert for a period of one year;

16. *Requests* the Independent Expert to present a report on the implementation of his mandate, including recommendations on technical assistance and capacity-building, to the Human Rights Council for consideration at its thirty-ninth session;

17. *Calls upon* the Government of the Sudan to continue its full cooperation with the Independent Expert and to continue to permit effective access to visit all areas of the country, and to meet with all relevant actors;

18. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide all financial and human resources necessary to the Independent Expert for the implementation of the mandate;

19. *Acknowledges* that the situation of human rights in the Sudan informs the establishment, renewal and transition of mandates related to the Sudan by the Human Rights Council, and urges the Government of the Sudan to cooperate with the Independent Expert, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders with the view that the continued and sustained improvement in the situation of human rights in the Sudan would contribute to an eventual transition of the mandate from that of Independent Expert to another appropriate United Nations human rights mechanism;

20. *Decides* to consider this issue under agenda item 10.

42nd meeting
29 September 2017

[Adopted without a vote.]